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The second part of JANSSONIUS' elaborate micrography of the woods of Java[4] has recently come from the press. In the notice of the first part of this work[5] we described the plan, which is here merely extended. The part includes in the concluding section of the first volume (Dicotyledones, Polypetalae, Thalamiflorae) descriptions of 67 species, in addition to the 108 of the first section. The second volume begins the Disciflorae and presents 54 species. The complete work will certainly be a monument of industry and will be serviceable for the microscopic identification of Javanese woods. That the game is worth the candle, we may be permitted to doubt.—C. R. B.

Microscopy of technical products

Now that so much attention is being paid to the purity of foods, drugs, and manufactured products of all kinds, it becomes of the greatest importance to have adequately trained men in municipal, state, and national offices, to whom can be submitted the many questions that are sure to arise as to the adulteration or sophistication of marketed articles. Unfortunately the number of competent persons is far short of the demand, and this state of affairs is sure to continue for some time. In this situation the only recourse is to have accurate handbooks in which may be found detailed descriptions of the characteristics, chemical and microscopic, of all the commoner substances which enter into commerce. Then one who has a reasonable familiarity with microscopic manipulation may be able to determine the more obvious cases of adulteration, and by experience may acquire real expertness.

To put into reach of American laboratories one of the most valuable of foreign works, Dr. A. L. WINTON, chief of the Chicago Food and Drug Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture, with the assistance of Dr. KATE G. BARBER, has translated an edition of HANAUSEK'S *Lehrbuch der technischen Mikroskopie*, which represents the last German edition extensively revised by the author.[6] The translators have also included a considerable amount of new material, and in particular they have incorporated into the key to economic woods—a most valuable feature of the book, permitting one to determine most of the species from a fragment of the wood—the American species of commercial importance. The illustrations have also been improved and augmented.

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[4] JANSSONIUS, H. H., Mikrographie des Holzes der auf Java vorkommenden Baumarten; im Auftrage des Kolonial-Ministeriums unter Leitung von Dr. J. W. MOLL bearbeitet im Anschluss an "Additamenta ad cognitionem florae arboreae javanicae auctoribus S. H. KOORDERS et TH. VALLETON." Zweite Lieferung. 8vo. Vol. I, pp. 369–568. Vol. II, pp. 1–160. *figs. 45–95*. Leiden: E. J. Brill. 1908. *M* 6.

[5] BOT. GAZETTE **43**:345. 1907.

[6] HANAUSEK, T. F., The microscopy of technical products. Revised by the author and translated by ANDREW L. WINTON, with the collaboration of KATE G. BARBER. Imp. 8vo. pp. xii+471. *figs. 276*. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 1907. $4.75.

The work opens with a section on the construction and use of the microscope, its accessories and reagents. The important types of technical products that are treated are the following: starches and inulin; vegetable fibers, including hairs, with a section on the examination of paper; animal fibers, mineral fibers, and textile fabrics; stems and roots, including woods (gymnospermous, dicotyledonous, and monocotyledonous), barks, and rhizomes, with some practical examples of the problems that are submitted for solution; leaves, under which only sumach leaves are treated; flowers, with insect powder alone treated; seeds and fruits, including a large range of oil cakes; and finally teeth, bone, horn, etc.

Of course in such a list there must be an end somewhere, for space is not unlimited; but one wonders at the basis of some choices. The line between drugs, foods, and technical products is not an easy one to draw; but if wheat and barley appear among the fruits, why not maize and rye? If sumach leaves, why not tea and tobacco? If insect powder, why not saffron? But it behooves us to be thankful for what there is, rather than to complain of what there is not. And what there is is sure to be thoroughly helpful.

The publishers' part has been well done. The illustrations are well printed, the text clear, and the binding substantial. The book is essential for public libraries and for governmental and university laboratories.—C. R. B.

Works of Léo Errera

We have already noticed in these pages the sumptuous republication of the work which, under the direction of LÉO ERRERA, issued from the botanical institute of the University of Brussels. In these volumes[7] his own original work takes a conspicuous place. But he did much other writing, popular, pedagogic, philosophic, literary, which is to be preserved by original publication or reprinting in a series of six volumes now being issued under the title *Recueil d'œuvres de Léo Errera.*[8] Of these three have appeared. Two deal with botanical subjects and one contains verse and prose on a variety of topics—addresses, thoughts, philosophic epigrams, etc. The botanical topics of the first volumes are: A letter on the vegetation about Nice; Agriculture and horticulture in Norway (largely a criticism of SCHÜBELER); Structure and modes of fecundation in flowers (200 pp.); Secondary heterostylic characters of primroses (a posthumous work completed by Miss J. WERY) (30 pp.); Progress of systematic botany; A neglected field of research (the efficacy of the defensive structures of plants); ENGELMANN'S bacterial method; Compass plants. In the second volume we find: Respiration of plants (one of a course of public lectures); De grâce, des noms latins (a plea for the avoidance of vernacular names); Scientific bases of agriculture (36 pp.);

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[7] Recueil de l'Institut Botanique Léo Errera. BOT. GAZETTE **43**:215, 347. 1907; **45**:201. 1908.

[8] Recueil d'œuvres de LÉO ERRERA. 8vo. Vols. I, II, Botanique Général. pp. iv+341. Vol. VI, Melanges (vers et prose). pp. xiv+222. Bruxelles: H. Lamertin. 1908.